

(A)

VINDICATION

OF THE

A. Bp. of Canterbury,

And several other Bishops of the

Church of England,

FROM THE

Calumnies cast upon them in several
late Pamphlets.

WE, whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, are, among others, represented as the *Authors and Abettors of England's Miseries*; and under the abusive Names of *the Lambeth Holy Club, the Holy Jacobite Club, and the Oeconomick Council of the whole Party*, are charged with a *Third Plot*, and with the composing of a *New Liturgy*, and using it in our *Cabals*; and whereas the *Clergy*, such of them as are styl'd *Malecontents*, are said (together with others) to have presented a *Memorial to the King of France*, to perswade him to *Invade England*; and are also affirmed to have kept a *constant Correspondence with Monsieur de Croissy*, in order thereunto.

We do hereby solemnly, as in the Presence of *God*, Protest and Declare:

I. That these Accusations cast upon us are all of them malicious Calumnies, and diabolical Inventions; that we are Innocent of them all; and we defie the Libeller (whoever he be) to produce, if he can, any legal Proof of our Guiltiness therein.

II. That we know not who was the Author of the *New Liturgy*, as the Libel calls it; That we had no hand in it, either in *Club, Cabal*, or otherwise; nor was it composed or published by Our Order, Consent, or Privy, nor hath it been used at any time by Us, or any of Us.

III. That neither We, nor any of Us, ever held any *Correspondence*, directly or indirectly, with *Monsieur de Croissy*, or with any other Minister or Agent of *France*: And if any such *Memorial* as the Libel mentions, was ever really presented to the *French King*, we never knew any thing of it, or any thing relating thereto: And we do utterly renounce both That, and all other Invitations, suggested to be made by Us, in order to any Invasion of this Kingdom by the *French*.

A

IV. That

IV. That we utterly deny and disavow all *Plots* charged upon Us, as contrived, or carried on in our Meetings at *Lambeth*; the intent whereof being to Advise, how (in our present Difficulties,) we might best keep *Consciences void of Offence towards God, and towards Man*.

V. That we are so far from being the *Authors or Abettors* of England's *Miseries*, (whatever the Spirit of *Lying* and *Calumny* may invent against Us) that We do, and shall to our Dying hour, heartily and incessantly Pray for the Peace, Prosperity, and Glory of *England*; and shall always, by God's Grace, make it our daily Practise, *To Study to be Quiet*, to bare our Cross patiently, and to seek the good of our Native Country.

Who the Author of this Libel is, we know not: But whoever he is, we desire, as our Lord hath taught us, to return him good for evil: He barbarously endeavours to raise in the whole *English* Nation such a Fury, as may end in *De Witting* us (a Bloody word, but too well understood!) But we recommend him to the Divine Mercy, humbly beseeching *God* to forgive him.

We have all of us, not long since, either Actually, or in full Preparation of Mind, hazarded all we had in the World in opposing *Papery* and Arbitrary Power in *England*; and we shall, by *God's* Grace, with greater Zeal again Sacrifice all we have, and our very Lives too, if *God* shall be pleased to call us thereto, to prevent *Papery*, and the Arbitrary Power of *France*, from coming upon us, and prevailing over us; The Persecution of our *Protestant* Brethren there, being fresh in our Memories.

It is our great Unhappiness, That we have not opportunity to publish full and particular Answers to those many Libels, which are industriously spread against us: But we hope, That our Countrymen will never be moved to *hate us without a Cause*; but will be so just and charitable to Us, as to believe this solemn Protestation of our Innocence.

W. Cant. } Tho. Bath and Wells.
W. Norwich. } Tho. Petriburg.

L O N D O N,

Printed for T. Johnson, near the Exchange in
the Strand. Anno Dom. 1691.